

officials who keep moving the goalpost and keep assuring us that everything is fine when in reality it keeps failing.

It is time we remove the rose-colored glasses and get to the facts.

WOMEN AND THE SHRIVER REPORT

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, one of the most common stories I hear from my constituents is the struggle to survive from paycheck to paycheck and to support their families.

Maria Shriver's new report detailing the economic challenges for women in America is in the news this week, and its findings are shocking.

We face the alarming reality that one in three women either live in poverty or are right on the brink. Two-thirds of the primary or co-breadwinners in American families are women, yet women earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men performing the same jobs.

Ensuring that men and women receive equal pay for equal work isn't just a matter of fairness; it is a matter of economic necessity. Especially in these tough economic times, smaller paychecks and lack of paid family leave for women make it harder for mothers to support their families, purchase health care, send their kids to college, and save for retirement.

Congress must take the next step and institute new policies that support women and their families.

As a Nation, we can and must do better.

POLARIS PROJECT, CINDY MCCAIN, AND CLEAR CHANNEL—SUPER TEAM TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, modern day slavery of children will not end without public awareness.

So in conjunction with the Polaris Project and Cindy McCain, Clear Channel is donating billboard space around Phoenix to inform the people of Arizona about the despicable crime of human trafficking.

Human trafficking increases around major sporting events such as the Super Bowl. New Jersey is getting ready for this year's Super Bowl by doing all they can to fight human trafficking. Arizona is working to bring awareness a year before their Super Bowl.

Human sex slavery happens right here in America. Until we acknowledge the fact that young girls are being sold on the streets, this despicable crime will continue.

I commend Clear Channel and activists and organizations, like Cindy

McCain and the Polaris Project, in their fight against human trafficking.

We need to rescue the victims and put the slave traders and their cohorts in crime, the child abusing consumers, behind bars.

And that's just the way it is.

PREVENTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IN IRAN

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, the recent developments in our diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons have been among the most promising in history.

In the interim, Iran has agreed to stop enriching uranium above the necessary level for energy production, dilute its existing stockpile, and allow unprecedented access to its nuclear facilities.

During the next 6 months, the administration and the international community will continue working toward a more comprehensive, verifiable agreement that enforces prevention and advances peace in the region. Already there are devastating consequences for Iran if it does not comply with the agreement.

The progress achieved thus far demonstrates that diplomacy is working. Congressional action now could jeopardize that progress, undermine the diplomatic process, and weaken our Nation's position in future negotiations.

As an American first, but also as a Jewish American, I strongly support Israel's security and our Nation's commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

I also fully support advancing peace and stability in the Middle East through diplomacy whenever possible.

Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of a historic opportunity to prevent nuclear proliferation in Iran, but it is fragile. Congressional interference at such a sensitive time is a high-risk, no-reward proposition.

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WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN?

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, next week, our Nation will mark 41 years since the Supreme Court legalized abortion with the *ROE v. WADE* decision. During that time, more than 50 million children have been denied their God-given right to life.

Think about that.

How different might our world have been had those children been born? One might have cured cancer or have been the teacher for your son or daughter. We will never know, but we do know they all matter. They all matter to their Creator. They all would have mattered to their friends and families.

As a Nation, we must recommit ourselves to defending the God-given right to life so we are not still wondering what might have been 40 years from now.

EUGENE'S UNEMPLOYMENT STORY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, as we debate how to extend unemployment benefits—and I certainly hope we will have that debate—we must remember what this vital lifeline means to real people.

Just recently, I held a roundtable discussion with local San Diegans in my district who are struggling to find work. In listening to their stories, I was struck by what a difference these essential benefits make.

Eugene, for example, was employed in the health care industry until June of 2012. When his lifeline was cut off shortly after Christmas, Eugene noted how “confidence falls, financial pressures mount, anxiety increases, and we begin to take desperate measures just to survive.” He added that these Federal extensions do make a difference, particularly in the case of having stable housing.

It is unfair to let this happen. After all, these benefits were earned by people who have worked and paid into the system. They should be able to put their full energies into getting a job; but if you can't afford housing, if you can't afford transportation to work, then that is nearly impossible to do. We should do the right thing for Eugene and for over 1 million fellow Americans by extending this lifeline now.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISON NATION

(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, North Dakota is known for having the strongest economy and the lowest unemployment rate in the Nation. We are also known as the home of North Dakota State University, or “Bison Nation” as we like to call it.

While millions of football fans spent the first weekend of the new year probably hoping for global warming and while contemplating what a “polar vortex” is, hearty Bison football fans watched and cheered as their beloved Thundering Herd earned a third consecutive Division I Football National Championship by handily defeating Towson 35-7, capping a perfect 15 and 0 win last season with an explanation mark. The route to three FCS championships includes a record-setting 24 consecutive victories and a 3-year win-loss record of 43 and 2.

Yes, my little State in the middle of the North American continent produces food for a hungry world, energy